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General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 19
Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Hessa Alateibi (United Arab Emirates), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.17

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 70/192 of 22 December 2015, 71/217 of 21 December 2016 and 72/208 of 20 December 2017 on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development and its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for

[1] Resolution 70/1.

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the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reiterating the affirmation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and attaining the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development,

Reaffirming the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries,

Welcoming the convening of the third annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up from 23 to 26 April 2018,

Recalling the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum,[2] which decided that the fourth Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up would convene from 15 to 18 April 2019 and would include the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and also that the 2019 forum would consider and report in its outcome document on the need to hold a follow-up conference,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council decision 2017/206 of 5 October 2016,

Noting the sixth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, held in New York on 21 and 22 May 2018, and its outcomes,[3]

Noting also the high-level meeting of the Secretary-General on financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in New York on 24 September 2018, and the presentation of the strategy of the Secretary-General for financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018–2021), and looking forward to regular updates by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the strategy,

Looking forward to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019,

Looking forward also to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, which will be held back-to-back with the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly,

1. *Emphasizes* the need to work towards the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[4]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development,[5] and notes that progress, though uneven, has been reported in all seven

[2] See E/FFDF/2018/3.

[3] See E/2018/73.

[4] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[5] *Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects 2018* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.I.5).

action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while acknowledging that many implementation gaps persist;

3. *Welcomes* the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up,[2] urges their full, effective and timely implementation, and looks forward to staying engaged so as to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges in the implementation of the financing for development outcomes and in the delivery of the means of implementation, promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels, address new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of this agenda as the need arises and provide policy recommendations for action by the international community in substantive intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations at the 2019 forum;

4. *Looks forward* to the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2019 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up;

5. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to begin early planning of the 2019 forum on financing for development follow-up;

6. *Recalls* that decisions relating to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up are to be contained within the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations;

7. *Takes note* of the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the initial contributions made by India to the voluntary trust fund and the contribution by the European Union and other countries supporting the Committee's subsidiary bodies, and urges Member States to come forward to contribute more to the trust fund in order to support the participation of developing countries;

8. *Welcomes* the holding of the 2018 Global Infrastructure Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 October 2018, and reiterates that the Forum is mandated to identify and address infrastructure and capacity gaps in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African countries;

9. *Also welcomes* the progress made in operationalizing the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the holding of the annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which is important, inter alia, in helping to facilitate the development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the Goals, looks forward to the establishment of the online platform as part of the Mechanism, and welcomes the progress made in operationalizing the technology bank for the least developed countries;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the convening of the third annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in New York on 5 and 6 June 2018, whose Co-Chairs' summary[6] served as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and highlighted, inter alia, the promotion of networking and matchmaking among relevant stakeholders, especially innovators, funders and other supporters, to bridge the technology gap for the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Recalls* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for

[6] See E/HLPF/2018/6.

Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize the means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the implementation of which requires following up on, that relate to its seven action areas, namely domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; debt and debt sustainability; addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building; and data, monitoring and follow-up;

12. *Notes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, whose agreed policy recommendations serve as an input to the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in accordance with the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts;

13. *Welcomes* the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of co-facilitators to consult with Member States on the substantive work, including the possible outcome, of the 2019 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly, and invites the President to keep Member States updated on the developments of the process;

14. *Takes note* of the joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, held on 14 September 2018, regarding the issues to be addressed in the thematic chapter of the 2019 and 2020 reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a summary report synthesizing the findings of the first four reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and the results as well as the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the four Economic and Social Council forums on financing for development follow-up as an input to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly in 2019 and the discussions of the Second Committee during the seventy-fourth session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development", unless otherwise agreed.

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (d)
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.28

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012, 68/212 of 20 December 2013, 69/220 of 19 December 2014, 70/205 of 22 December 2015, 71/228 of 21 December 2016 and 72/219 of 20 December 2017 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention,[2] acknowledging that they are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressing determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noting with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges, in particular their nationally determined contributions, as appropriate, and aggregate emission pathways,

Recalling further the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Acknowledging that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority and a global challenge faced by all countries, in particular developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, recognizing that the current need for adaptation is significant and that greater levels of mitigation can reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts, and bearing in mind that the provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation,

Welcoming the convening of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Katowice, Poland, from 2 to 14 December 2018,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7] the outcomes of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[8] the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016,[9] the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[10] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[11] the Mauritius Declaration[12] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development

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[3] Resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[9] Resolution 70/294, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[11] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

of Small Island Developing States,[13] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[14] the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[15] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[16] and the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[17]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Noting with concern the findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty,

Taking note of the Green Climate Fund and its initial resource mobilization process, making it the largest dedicated climate fund, and its approval of 4.6 billion United States dollars in funding to support the implementation of 93 climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes in 96 developing countries, reiterating the objectives and guiding principles of the Fund, including a gender-sensitive approach in its process and operations, stressing its goal of ensuring efficient access to its resources through simplified approval procedures and enhancing readiness support, which will help to deliver outcomes in developing countries so as to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change, recognizing that the Board of the Fund decided to launch the process for the first formal replenishment, and emphasizing the importance of having a timely, well-managed and successful process so that the Fund continues to be one of the main channels to enable the flow of financial resources to developing countries under the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

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[13] Ibid., annex II.

[14] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[15] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[16] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[17] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017–2030,[18] and acknowledging that all types of forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation,

Noting that forests are addressed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and noting also article 5 of the Paris Agreement,

Noting the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[19] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[20] as appropriate, while respecting their individual mandates,

Noting also the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action",

Recognizing that, in undertaking its work, the United Nations should promote the protection of the global climate for the well-being of present and future generations of humankind,

Welcoming the entry into force on 1 January 2019 of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,[21] welcoming also its ratification by 59 countries and one regional economic integration organization, while encouraging further ratifications as soon as possible, and welcoming further the Thirtieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held from 5 to 9 November 2018 in Quito,

Noting the contribution of the International Civil Aviation Organization to global efforts to combat climate change, and noting also the contribution of the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water availability and livelihoods, and efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieve sustainable development, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, and emphasizes in this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Welcomes* the first two sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change after the adoption of the Paris Agreement,[2] including the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties, presided over by the Government of Fiji, in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017, and the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United

[18] See resolution 71/285.
[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[20] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[21] UNEP/OzL.Pro.28/12, annex I.

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of Morocco in Marrakech, from 7 to 18 November 2016;

3. *Also welcomes* the Paris Agreement and its early entry into force, on 4 November 2016, encourages all parties to the Agreement to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible, and highlights the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[22] and the Paris Agreement;

4. *Recalls* that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production, and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

5. *Welcomes* the nationally determined contributions submitted to date, and recalls that the regular updating of such contributions will reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in the light of different national circumstances, and provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding, in accordance with the relevant decisions;

6. *Notes with concern* that the nationally determined contributions presented thus far by the parties to the Paris Agreement are not sufficient to achieve the long-term temperature goal in article 2, paragraph 1(a), of the Agreement;

7. *Urges* the completion of the Paris Agreement work programme at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and recognizes the importance of the facilitative dialogue of 2018, known as the Talanoa Dialogue, at the twenty-fourth session as an opportunity to take stock of the collective efforts of parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in article 4, paragraph 1, of the Agreement and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for collective efforts to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions in an innovative, coordinated, environmentally sound, open and shared manner;

9. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for action at all levels, to enhance efforts to build resilience through, inter alia, the sustainable management of ecosystems, and to build resilience to reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters;

10. *Recognizes* that enhanced access to international climate finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and also recognizes the ongoing efforts in this regard;

[22] Resolution 70/1.

11. *Acknowledges* the work undertaken under the auspices of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action,[23] and encourages non-party stakeholders to scale up their efforts to address and respond to climate change;

12. *Looks forward* to the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change;

13. *Also looks forward* to the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the high-level meeting during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the issue of the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

14. *Reiterates* the resolve of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 1/CP.19,[24] to accelerate the full implementation of the decisions constituting the agreed outcome pursuant to its decision 1/CP.13[25] and to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all parties;

15. *Welcomes* the further acceptance or ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol[26] by 117 countries, up from 95 countries one year ago, expresses concern that the Doha Amendment has not yet entered into force, and welcomes the efforts of those parties that are already implementing the Doha amendment prior to its entry into force;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[27]

17. *Recognizes* the importance for all countries of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage, and in that regard takes note of the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, relevant consecutive decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as well as article 8 of the Paris Agreement;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of Poland of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Katowice, Poland, from 2 to 14 December 2018;

19. *Also notes with appreciation* the offer by the Government of Brazil to host the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, from 11 to 22 November 2019;

20. *Urges* Member States, taking into account that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources towards achieving the

[23] See FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1.
[24] See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1.
[25] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1.
[26] See FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1.
[27] A/73/255, sect. I.

full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, and stresses the need to address the challenges posed by climate change that affect women and girls in particular, including through the implementation of the first gender action plan adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-third session, with a view to advancing towards the goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective into climate action;

21. *Recalls* the action plan for integrating sustainable development practices into Secretariat-wide operations and facilities management submitted by the Secretary-General[28] and endorsed in resolution 72/219, and requests the Secretary-General to report on its implementation and improvements achieved to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session;

22. *Notes* the ongoing work and potential of the local communities and indigenous peoples platform of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, established for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner, and recalls decision 2/CP.23 of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the platform's purpose and functions;

23. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, unless otherwise agreed.

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[28] A/72/82.

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (e)
Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.38

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 72/220 of 20 December 2017, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community committed to combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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Acknowledging that action to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and achieve a land degradation-neutral world can deliver multiple benefits and that land degradation neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing and climate finance to implement the Convention,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Bearing in mind its resolution 62/195 of 19 December 2007, in which it declared the decade 2010–2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, and its resolution 64/201 of 21 December 2009, in which it designated the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as the focal point of the Decade, and invited States parties to the Convention, observers and other relevant stakeholders to organize activities to observe the Decade,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[2] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled "Global Warming of 1.5°C",

Looking forward to the Climate Summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Welcoming the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[4] and acknowledging that all types of forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, that the sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that all forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, sand and dust storms and other disasters,

Taking note of the *Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration*[5] of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which reaffirms the global dimension of land degradation and reconfirms the economic sense of urgent and concerted action and investment in avoiding land degradation and the restoration of degraded lands,

Noting that combating desertification, land degradation and drought, including through sustainable land management, can contribute to easing forced migration flows influenced by a number of factors, including economic, social, security and

[2] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] See resolution 71/285.

[5] Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Bonn, Germany, 2018).

environmental concerns, which can, in turn, reduce current and potential fighting over resources in degraded areas,

Encouraging countries to give due consideration to the dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[6]

Recognizing that drought resilience is an important element in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as of target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality,[7]

Highlighting the important role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,[8]

Recognizing that sand and dust storms can be exacerbated by desertification, land degradation and drought and that sustainable land management in the context of land degradation neutrality, including land management and sustainable water use, can contribute to effective responses to sand and dust storms,

Welcoming the fact that 119 States have subscribed to the voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting programme under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the value of knowledge, education, science and new technology to sustainable development and good land management, including making use of, inter alia, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making and that science and technology to combat desertification, land degradation and drought should therefore be further promoted, acknowledging the work of the Science-Policy Interface of the Convention, and welcoming the organization of the technology fair at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Expressing deep concern about the continuous trend of land degradation, as reflected in the findings of the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018*,[9]

Reaffirming the importance of government leadership, multi-stakeholder partnerships and increasing private engagement for the sustainable management, restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, biodiversity and land,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of China for hosting the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017,

Noting with appreciation the global observance event to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, held in Quito on 17 June 2018 on the theme "Land has true value — Invest in it",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 72/220 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

[7] See resolution 70/1.

[8] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1, decision 7/COP.13, annex.

[9] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.I.6.

Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[10]

2. *Affirms* that achieving land degradation neutrality would serve as an accelerator and integrator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing and climate finance to implement the Convention, and respond to the overall objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[6]

3. *Encourages* the organizations of the United Nations system, when designing and implementing their programmes and projects, to take into account the role of land degradation neutrality as a potential accelerator of Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Invites* Member States to support efforts to implement the strategic objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] on drought;

5. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[11] as well as the launch of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, a global impact investment vehicle for projects addressing land degradation, and takes note with appreciation of the launch of the first edition of *Global Land Outlook*,[12] which provides, among other things, an assessment of the state of land globally as well as solutions for the sustainable management of land resources to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of the Ordos Declaration at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging countries to step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development;[13]

7. *Recognizes* the importance of applying new and innovative technologies, enabling policies and approaches, as well as sharing best practices, in combating desertification, land degradation and drought, and requests the Secretary-General to identify those technologies, enabling policies and best practices in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Underlines* the importance of comprehensive reporting, follow-up and review at the global, national and regional levels, as appropriate, in order to track progress in the implementation of the Convention, to ensure that its overall objectives to reverse desertification and mitigate the effects of drought to achieve sustainable development in the affected areas are duly attained;

9. *Takes note*, as appropriate, of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its thirteenth session, to promote the positive role that measures taken to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, can play in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that can cause migration, and invites all stakeholders to take note of this when addressing drivers of migration within the ongoing processes;

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[10] A/73/255, sect. II.

[11] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1.

[12] Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Bonn, Germany, 2017).

[13] Ibid., decision 27/COP.13, annex.

10. *Underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for national and international action to enhance efforts to build resilience;

11. *Encourages* the public and private sectors to continue to invest in developing, adapting and scaling up the application of technologies, enabling policies, methods and tools to combat desertification, land degradation and drought in different regions, and to boost knowledge exchange, including of traditional knowledge with the consent of the knowledge holders, capacity-building and sharing of technologies on mutually agreed terms;

12. *Encourages* developed countries party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to actively support the efforts of developing countries party to the Convention in promoting sustainable land management practices and in seeking to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by providing substantial financial resources, facilitated access to appropriate technology and other forms of support, including through capacity-building measures;

13. *Welcomes* the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention, including a new strategic objective on drought, and strongly encourages the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including in their national action programmes, as appropriate, and to implement the Strategic Framework, taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[14]

14. *Recognizes* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls remains a crucial contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, welcomes the adoption of the Gender Action Plan by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its thirteenth session, and calls upon parties to the Convention and partners to pursue the equal participation of women and men in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels and to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in desertification, land degradation and drought-related policies and activities as a means to strengthen the effective and efficient implementation of action on the ground;

15. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral partners to support parties to the Convention in the implementation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention;

16. *Encourages* parties to the Convention to continue to promote the prevention of desertification, land degradation and drought with an integrated landscape approach, including the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land and sustainable land management;

17. *Calls upon* parties to the Convention to enhance and support the preparation of drought preparedness policies on, inter alia, early warning systems, vulnerability and risk assessment, as well as drought risk mitigation measures;

18. *Welcomes* target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world,[6] and takes note with appreciation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality

[14] Resolution 69/313, annex.

target setting programme under the Convention and the work of the secretariat of the Convention and partners to assist States in carrying out voluntary target setting activities, and in this respect invites States that have not yet subscribed to the programme to do so;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the financial contributions that have been made by States and other donors towards the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, and invites States and other donors to make further contributions;

20. *Invites* more investment aimed at the operationalization of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme and the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund as an innovative funding scheme to finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for the achievement of a land degradation-neutral world;

21. *Recognizes* the benefits gained from cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, while also taking account of dust and sand storms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard likewise recognizes the need for further cooperation between parties to the Convention and relevant organizations in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

22. *Encourages* the United Nations system to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Convention on Biological Diversity,[15] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this respect welcomes the ongoing efforts to strengthen synergies among the secretariats of the aforementioned conventions;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa", unless otherwise agreed.

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[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.45

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (j)
Sustainable development: combating sand and dust storms

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.16

Combating sand and dust storms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 70/195 of 22 December 2015, 71/219 of 21 December 2016 and 72/225 of 20 December 2017 on combating sand and dust storms,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the Paris Agreement,[1] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of

[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Looking forward to the climate change summit to be convened by the Secretary-General in 2019 to accelerate global action on climate change,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 1/7 of 27 June 2014 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality[3] and 2/21 of 27 May 2016 on sand and dust storms,[4]

Recalling also the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017, including decision 31/COP.13 of 15 September 2017 on the Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms,[5]

Noting the adoption, by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session, of resolution 72/7 of 19 May 2016 on regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling also its resolutions 71/229 of 21 December 2016 and 72/220 of 20 December 2017 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Taking note of the Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms of the United Nations Environment Programme, and taking note also of other initiatives, including the ministerial meeting on sand and dust storms held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015, and recognizing that one of the priorities for action of the Framework is an understanding of disaster risk for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters, which continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Acknowledging that, based on the notion of hazards as defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[6] addressing multidimensional hazards, including those

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/69/25), annex.

[4] Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/71/25), annex.

[5] See ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1.

[6] A/CONF.206/6 and A/CONF.206/6/Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

posed by sand and dust storms, contributes towards the achievement of the goals, targets and priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Emphasizing the relevance of the efforts and cooperation of Member States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human settlements in vulnerable regions, taking note of the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting a regional meeting of environment ministers in Tehran on 29 September 2010, welcoming the holding of other meetings with the active participation of all countries, and taking note with appreciation of other ongoing initiatives by various countries to combat sand and dust storms, especially at the regional level,

Stressing the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to managing and mitigating the effects of sand and dust storms through the enhancement of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast sand and dust storms, and affirming that resilient action to combat sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of sand and dust storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms and the unsustainable land management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, including climate change, pose a serious challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, also recognizes that, in the past few years, sand and dust storms have inflicted substantial economic, social and environmental damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia, and underscores the need to treat them and to promptly take measures to address those challenges;

3. *Welcomes* the convening of a high-level interactive dialogue on sand and dust storms, held at Headquarters in New York on 16 July 2018, bringing together Member States, United Nations entities, regional commissions and other stakeholders to discuss action-oriented recommendations and address the challenges faced by the affected countries, including ways to improve policy coordination at the global level to tackle those challenges in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, during which the continuing need to confront the multiple challenges presented by sand and dust storms was highlighted;

4. *Acknowledges* the role of the United Nations development system in advancing international cooperation and support to combat sand and dust storms, and invites all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all other related organizations to integrate, in their respective cooperation frameworks, operational programmes, measures and actions aimed at combating sand and dust storms so as to address this problem and contribute to the enhancement of, inter alia, capacity-building at the national level, the implementation of regional and subregional projects, the sharing

[7] A/73/306.

of information, best practices and experiences and the boosting of technical cooperation in the affected countries and countries of origin, to improve the implementation of sustainable land management practices, to take measures to prevent and control the main factors of sand and dust storms and to improve the development of early warning systems as tools to combat sand and dust storms in accordance with their strategic plans;

5. *Welcomes* the intention of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish an inter-agency network involving relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, with the aim of enhancing United Nations system-wide cooperation and coordination on the sand and dust storms agenda, and encourages all relevant agencies to continue to work closely to support the network and to ensure a more coherent and consistent approach to tackling sand and dust storm issues at the global, regional and national levels, as appropriate;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of new and innovative technologies and best practices in combating sand and dust storms, as well as their sharing and transfer on mutually agreed terms;

7. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional organizations and processes to continue to share best practices, experiences and technical expertise in combating sand and dust storms to address the root causes and impacts of sand and dust storms, including through improved implementation of sustainable land management practices, and to promote regional cooperation in this matter to reduce the risk and impact of future sand and dust storms and to provide affected countries with capacity-building and technical support from the relevant United Nations organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, to this end;

8. *Invites* all affected Member States as well as relevant entities of the United Nations development system, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to endeavour to meet the objectives set out in the present resolution;

9. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and, among other factors, is a serious challenge to the sustainable development of all countries, including those affected by sand and dust storms, and emphasizes that, among other factors, climate change is an important potential contributor to future wind erosion and the risk of sand and dust storms, especially the occurrence of more extreme wind events and the movement towards drier climates, although reverse effects are possible;

10. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms cause numerous human health problems in different regions around the world, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, and that there is a need to reinforce protective strategies to reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human health, invites the World Health Organization, with the cooperation of other relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate, to support affected countries in combating health problems caused by sand and dust storms, within their respective mandates, welcomes the formation of a working group on sand and dust storms to discuss emerging issues and share information under the Global Platform on Air Quality and Health of the World Health Organization, and also welcomes the finalization of a report on the health effects of sand and dust storms as part of the current update to the World Health Organization air quality guidelines, and the development of standard operating procedures to assess and address the short-term health effects of desert dust by the World Health Organization, in collaboration with experts from the World Meteorological Organization;

11. *Emphasizes* that sand and dust storm issues will constitute important components of the global coalition on health, environment and climate change launched in May 2018 by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization to improve coordination and reduce the 12.6 million deaths each year that are attributed to environmental risks, especially air pollution;

12. *Commends* the United Nations Environment Assembly on its commitment to addressing sand and dust storms, and in this regard notes Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms, adopted during its second session;[8]

13. *Notes* the convening of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017, under the theme "Towards a pollution-free planet", affirms the importance of addressing sand and dust storms in the context of international efforts against air pollution, and takes note with appreciation of its ministerial declaration;[8]

14. *Welcomes* the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017, notes with appreciation the Ordos Declaration[9] and other relevant outcomes adopted by the parties during the Conference, namely decision 31/COP.13,[5] invites the organizations of the United Nation system to support their implementation, and reaffirms the importance of addressing sand and dust storms under the Convention;

15. *Encourages* the relevant entities of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and donors to provide capacity-building and technical assistance for combating sand and dust storms and to support the implementation of the national, regional and global action plans of the affected countries;

16. *Acknowledges* the global assessment of sand and dust storms prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which sets out proposals for consolidated and coordinated technical and policy options for responding to sand and dust storms;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Combating sand and dust storms", unless otherwise agreed.

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[8] UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1.

[9] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1, decision 27/COP.13, annex.

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.46

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Seventy-third session
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Agenda item 22 (b)
Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Cédric Braquetti (Monaco), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.26

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 61/208 of 20 December 2006, 63/225 of 19 December 2008, 65/170 of 20 December 2010, 67/219 of 21 December 2012, 69/229 of 19 December 2014 and 71/237 of 21 December 2016 on international migration and development, its resolution 68/4 of 3 October 2013, by which it adopted the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, its resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions 62/156 of 18 December 2007, 64/166 of 18 December 2009, 66/172 of 19 December 2011, 68/179 of 18 December 2013, 69/167 of 18 December 2014 and 70/147 of 17 December 2015 on the protection of migrants and its resolution 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and recalling also chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,[2] 2008/1 of 11 April 2008,[3] 2013/1 of 26 April 2013[4] and 2014/1 of 11 April 2014,[5]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I, sect. B.
[3] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 5* (E/2008/25), chap. I, sect. B.
[4] Ibid., *2013, Supplement No. 5* (E/2013/25), chap. I, sect. B.
[5] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 5* (E/2014/25), chap. I, sect. B.

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the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 September 2016,[6]

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, which was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[7] and recognizing the linkages between migration and sustainable urbanization and sustainable urban development,

Reaffirming also the Paris Agreement,[8] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[9] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,[10] and those provisions that are applicable to migrants,

Recalling also the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in New York on 3 and 4 October 2013, which addressed constructively the issue of international migration and development and explored the opportunities and the challenges that international migration presents, including the protection of the human rights of migrants and the contribution of migrants to development,

Recalling further the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted on 3 October 2013 on the occasion of the High-level Dialogue,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[11] recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[12] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[13] the International Convention on the

[6] Resolution 71/1.
[7] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[8] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.
[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[10] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.
[11] Resolution 217 A (III).
[12] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[13] Ibid.

Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[14] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[15] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[16] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[17] and recalling also the Declaration on the Right to Development,[18]

Encouraging States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[19] and to consider acceding to relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, as appropriate,

Recalling the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the eight fundamental Conventions of that Organization and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to addressing the multidimensional nature of international migration and promoting balanced and comprehensive approaches and dialogue on migration and development, and acknowledging that it has proved to be a valuable forum for holding frank and open discussions, including through multi-stakeholder dialogues, and that it has helped to build trust among participating stakeholders through the exchange of experiences and good practices and by virtue of its voluntary, intergovernmental, non-binding and informal character and the engagement of civil society actors as well as the private sector,

Acknowledging the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the global, regional and national levels, as appropriate, including at the level of the United Nations and other international organizations, in relation to development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[20]

2. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen synergies between international migration and development at all levels, including the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;

3. *Recommits* to ensuring full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and supporting countries of origin, transit and destination in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances;

4. *Notes* the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018;

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[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[15] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[16] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[17] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[18] Resolution 41/128, annex.
[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[20] A/73/286.

5. *Notes also* that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is the first intergovernmentally negotiated outcome, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover international migration in all its dimensions;

6. *Recognizes* that the High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development have served as forums to advance discussions on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

7. *Notes* that, with the adoption of the Global Compact, the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development shall be repurposed into the International Migration Review Forum, which will serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[21] and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, and that the Forum is to be held every four years, beginning in 2022;

8. *Decides* to convene, in the first half of 2019, a one-day high-level debate on international migration and development, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, in lieu of the 2019 High-level Dialogue, to inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which will review the Goals and targets relevant to migration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into consideration the outcomes of other processes related to international migration and development;

9. *Welcomes* the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations network on migration;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-fifth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".

[21] Resolution 70/1.

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 23 (a)
Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Hessa Alateibi (United Arab Emirates), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.31

Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action, and recalling also the Political Declaration adopted at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[3] held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.
[3] Resolution 70/294, annex.

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that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[4] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*[6] of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Looking forward to the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[7] and acknowledging that, in implementing the New Urban Agenda, particular attention should be given to the unique and emerging urban challenges faced by the least developed countries,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and its guiding principles,[8] recalling also its promotion of regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, at the national and local levels, with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs, and acknowledging that its implementation can contribute to achievement of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling also its resolution 72/231 of 20 December 2017 on the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/26 of 24 July 2018 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

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[4] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] *Global Warming of 1.5°C* is a special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impact of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

[7] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[8] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

Taking note of the 2018 Ministerial Declaration of the least developed countries,[9]

Recalling its resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, as well its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[10] and on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures and graduation support;[11]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further strengthen the global partnership for development for the least developed countries in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[12] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[13] which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the Paris Agreement[4] adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[7] and the New Urban Agenda;[6]

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society, academia and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence, in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Recalls* the agreement contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at all levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

5. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up

[9] A/73/455, annex.
[10] A/73/80-E/2018/58.
[11] A/73/291.
[12] Resolution 70/1.
[13] Resolution 69/313, annex.

and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

6. *Recognizes* that significant additional domestic public and private resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance and foreign direct investment, as appropriate, will be critical for the realization of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership;

7. *Also recognizes* that, while the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed;

8. *Welcomes* the reversal in the decline of official development assistance to the least developed countries in 2017, while expressing its concern that bilateral official development assistance to the least developed countries remains far from the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income committed by many developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action and reaffirmed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitments to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, urges all others to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the official development assistance targets, reiterates that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, calls upon official development assistance providers to fulfil their respective official development assistance commitments to the least developed countries, and encourages official development assistance providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, while reiterating that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

9. *Encouraged* by those countries which are allocating at least 50 per cent of their official development assistance to the least developed countries;

10. *Welcomes* continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles;

11. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

12. *Notes* that exports of goods and services of the least developed countries increased by 13 per cent in 2017 after three years of continued negative growth, expresses its concern that the share of goods and services exports, which stood at 0.9 per cent in 2017, remains far from the target of 2 per cent of global exports called for in the Istanbul Programme of Action and target 17.11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls upon the least developed countries and their development partners to take the measures necessary to further accelerate the progress, with a view to achieving the targets of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda;

13. *Urges* the least developed countries and their development partners to make use of existing initiatives and programmes, such as the relevant ministerial decisions of the World Trade Organization on duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries and on preferential rules of origin for those countries, as well as aid for trade, reiterates its commitment to increase aid-for-trade support, in particular for the least developed countries, strives to allocate an increasing proportion of aid for trade to the least developed countries, in accordance with development cooperation effectiveness principles, welcomes additional cooperation among developing countries to that end, and encourages the least developed countries to mainstream trade in their national development plans;

14. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries face significant infrastructure gaps, including in the areas of transport, energy and information and communications technology, and reaffirms the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions, maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development;

15. *Emphasizes* that the acute energy gap faced by the least developed countries is a severe constraint on their structural transformation, and stresses that special attention should be given to the least developed countries, including throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 and to addressing the infrastructure needs of the least developed countries;

16. *Recognizes* the significant potential of regional economic integration and interconnectivity to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in the least developed countries, and stresses the need to strengthen regional cooperation to improve connectivity and competitiveness, increase productivity, lower transaction costs and expand markets;

17. *Also recognizes* that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, while acknowledging that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in such a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, recalls the need to strengthen information-sharing and transparency to make sure that debt sustainability assessments are based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data, encourages Member States to work towards global consensus and best practices on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives, and underlines that the debt sustainability framework for the least developed countries should systematically take into account their structural constraints and longer-term investment requirements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Expresses its deep concern* that a number of least developed countries are in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress[14] and that the ratio of debt service to exports has worsened sharply, rising from 4.1 per cent in 2008 to almost 10 per cent in 2017, underlines the urgent need to address the debt problems of the least developed countries, and stresses the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, for the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private, reiterates its commitment to work through existing initiatives, such as the Heavily Indebted

[14] See International Monetary Fund, Debt Sustainability Analysis: Low-Income Countries.

Poor Countries Initiative, and reaffirms the importance of transparency in debt management;

19. *Expresses its concern* that foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries contracted by 17 per cent in 2017 compared with 2016, with continued concentration on extractive and related industries, and underlines the need to take the measures necessary at all levels to further accelerate foreign direct investment in the least developed countries;

20. *Encourages* the least developed countries, in accordance with their national plans and priorities, and with the full support of their development partners, to develop their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation and regulate customs and to redouble their efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation, and also encourages the United Nations and other relevant international bodies to help to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

21. *Recalls* target 17.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which the General Assembly decided to adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries, and underlines the need for its early implementation, invites the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to retain the issue of investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries in the agenda of the Board, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system to increase the flow of foreign direct investment to the least developed countries and the ability of those countries to attract such investment, and in that context takes note of the initiative of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, to set up a capacity-development programme for the investment promotion agencies of the least developed countries, and calls for financial support to operationalize this programme;

22. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and the inauguration of its headquarters in Gebze, Turkey, which signifies the achievement of the first Sustainable Development Goal target, target 17.8, takes note with appreciation of the contributions that Bangladesh, India, Norway and Turkey have made, as well as the pledges made by the Philippines and the Sudan, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and technical assistance to the Technology Bank to ensure its effective operation;

23. *Expresses its deep concern* that, owing to significant capacity constraints, the least developed countries are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, salinity intrusion, glacial lake outburst floods, ocean acidification and the rise in frequency, as well as the impact, of natural and man-made disasters, which further threaten food security, health and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and expresses its concern that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues;

24. *Recognizes* that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development, and also recognizes the synergies between

the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledges the importance of continued support for and international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts and on strengthening resilience, stresses the necessity of adequate and predictable financial resources from a variety of sources, including public and private ones, highlights the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, recognizes that effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development, and in this regard underlines the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the consequences of disasters;

25. *Underlines* the importance of peaceful and inclusive societies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recalls the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action of: enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms; reducing corruption and curbing illicit financial flows; and strengthening the capacity of the Governments of the least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of developing domestic capital markets in the least developed countries, which can help channel the growing pool of domestic savings towards productive investments, reaffirms the commitment to enhance international support in developing domestic capital markets in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, and reaffirms its commitment to work to strengthen capacity-building in this area, including through regional, interregional and global forums for knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and data-sharing, on mutually agreed terms;

27. *Reaffirms* that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realization of the human rights of all people are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies in the least developed countries;

28. *Recognizes* that particular efforts are needed to ensure that all young people, including girls, enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels, inclusive of early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training, notes with concern, in this regard, the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education, recognizes the need to continue to provide and encourage, as appropriate, institutes of higher education to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from the least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics, and to strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global, regional and national levels, and recognizes that the least developed countries have the most to gain from sustainable development and utilizing the full skills and talents of their people, including women and girls;

29. *Also recognizes* that increasing participation, empowering civil society, youth and women and strengthening collective action will contribute to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development;

30. *Underlines* the need to reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and to enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges by strengthening their resilience, and in this regard stresses that it is important that all countries and other actors work together to further develop and implement concrete measures, on an urgent basis, at the national and international levels so as to build the resilience of the least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and mitigate their adverse effects, to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, to enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

31. *Also underlines* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need for national and international action to enhance efforts to build resilience, especially for the most vulnerable, including through mainstreaming resilience into investment decision-making, building resilience through sustainable management of ecosystems and value chains and building resilience to reduce the impact and cost of natural disasters;

32. *Further underlines* the importance of improving the coordination and effectiveness of resilience-building initiatives for the least developed countries by leveraging existing measures at the national, regional and global levels to respond to various types of disasters and shocks, as elaborated in the 2017 report of the Secretary-General;[15]

33. *Encourages* countries to develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, in accordance with target (*e*) of the Sendai Framework, recognizes the importance of promoting their alignment and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies, recognizes that the development of climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 is an opportunity to maximize synergies across the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, and in this regard calls for disaster risk reduction to be considered in the review of and follow-up to the Istanbul Programme of Action;

34. *Reiterates* the call to substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for the implementation of the Sendai Framework by 2030;

35. *Congratulates* those countries that have met the criteria for graduation from least developed country status, notes with appreciation that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites those countries to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

36. *Acknowledges* that the graduation of a country symbolizes its considerable long-term socioeconomic progress, prevailing over the structural handicaps to socioeconomic development, and that it also presents many challenges for graduated countries, which continue to face vulnerabilities to various shocks and crises;

37. *Invites* the least developed countries and development partners to integrate graduation and smooth transition strategies into their respective national development

[15] See A/72/270, report of the Secretary-General on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for the least developed countries.

and aid strategies, as appropriate, including capacity-building and technical assistance to diversify sources of financing;

38. *Notes with appreciation* that some development partners have extended some of the benefits specific to the least developed countries to countries that have graduated, taking into account the challenges they continue to face, and invites all development partners to strengthen their support for graduation and smooth transition so that graduating and recently graduated countries can minimize disruption in their development trajectory;

39. *Invites* countries that are found eligible for graduation to establish a consultative mechanism, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/221, to prepare the transition strategy as early as possible, engaging all relevant donors and stakeholders;

40. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure the effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

41. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for the least developed countries, led by the Office of the High Representative, notes the steps taken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Committee on Programmes in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board;

42. *Recalls* paragraph 157 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 on holding a Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in order to make a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action, and decides to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in 2021 for a duration of not more than five working days, with the following mandate:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;

(b) To identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them;

(c) To reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including in the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework;

(d) To mobilize additional international support measures and action, in addition to domestic resources, in favour of the least developed countries and, in this regard, to formulate and adopt a renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society and governments at all levels;

43. *Decides* to convene, towards the end of 2020 and/or early in 2021, an intergovernmental preparatory committee, which would hold no more than two meetings for no more than five days each;

44. *Also decides* to take a decision on the organizational aspects, date and venue of the Conference and on the venue, duration and dates of the preparatory committee meetings at its seventy-fourth session;

45. *Further decides* that the meeting of the preparatory committee will be preceded by two regional preparatory meetings, each no longer than three days, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in the context of the regular annual session of each Commission, with those regional meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations;

46. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the Conference and in the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and calls upon the Governments of the least developed countries to submit their reports in a timely manner;

47. *Stresses* that the Conference and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for 2020 and 2021 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner possible;

48. *Decides* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will be the focal point for the preparations for the Conference, in accordance with mandates given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, to ensure that those preparations are carried out effectively and to mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the entire United Nations system;

49. *Encourages* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support and to contribute actively to the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in the preparations for the Conference, in particular in the country-level and regional preparations;

51. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums and the preparatory process of the Conference , and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the Istanbul Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries";

53. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a progress report on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures covering both graduating and recently graduated countries, including new and dedicated support measures to graduated countries in moving forward on their development path and initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category.

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.48

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 23 (b)
Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Hessa Alateibi (United Arab Emirates), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.30

Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[1] at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolutions 71/239 of 21 December 2016 and 72/232 of 20 December 2017,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —

[1] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

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economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[2] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4] while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda,[5] adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, and recognizing the importance of sustainable urban development for landlocked developing countries,

Welcoming the holding of the 2018 Global Infrastructure Forum, in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 October 2018, on the theme "Unlocking inclusive, resilient and sustainable technology-driven infrastructure", and taking note of its outcome,

Noting the transport infrastructure gap in landlocked developing countries and the need to bring the level of transport infrastructure up to global standards, and in this regard the crucial importance of strong national and international partnerships to bridging the gap,

Recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and its general guidelines and principles, as well as its resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018, and welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the operational activities for development of the United Nations system to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and the domestic

[2] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution 71/256, annex.

resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[6] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[7] the first programme of action for the landlocked developing countries,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

Recognizing the need to promote both public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies, taking into account the special vulnerabilities and needs of landlocked developing countries,

Taking note of the Astana Ministerial Declaration, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries on Trade and Transport, held in Astana on 16 and 17 May 2018, in the context of the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Reaffirming that achieving food security and improving nutrition, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, achieving inclusive and equitable quality education, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as well as ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, are important for achieving sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the declaration of the annual ministerial meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 September 2018 on the theme "Revitalizing partnerships to enhance the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recognizing that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for accompanying landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Taking note of the Livingstone Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, adopted at the high-level follow up meeting to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Livingstone, Zambia, in June 2015,

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[6] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[7] Ibid., annex I.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[10] and affirms that their effective implementation, together with the implementation of the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[11] can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and stresses that the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries should be given consideration, as appropriate, in the implementation, follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries face specific challenges in their efforts towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and the pursuit of sustainable development, and in this regard underlines the importance of continued international support to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries;

5. *Also recognizes* that efforts will need to be scaled up and sustained in order to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 in landlocked developing countries;

6. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement the relevant actions, consistent with national priorities, agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

7. *Reiterates its invitation* to development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation, and encourages development partners, the United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide technical support, within their respective mandates, to the landlocked developing countries in their efforts to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda into their national development strategies;

9. *Encourages* landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into their national development planning and foster coherence in its implementation with the Vienna Programme of Action;

10. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, and invites Member States that have not yet acceded to the existing conventions to consider the possibility of doing so, stresses also that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between

[8] A/73/297.
[9] Resolution 70/1.
[10] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[11] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution of cross-border trade and transit transport problems, and underlines that this cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems, including roads, railroads and inland waterways, that link landlocked developing countries to international markets, reaffirms that the Vienna Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard highlights the need to establish secure, reliable, efficient, high-quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transit transport systems, renewable energy and information and communications technology, with the support of development partners, multilateral financial and development institutions and regional banks;

12. *Notes* that, despite the continued growth of air passenger and freight transport, landlocked developing countries are still faced with low volumes of freight transported by air, and stresses that air transport is particularly important, as it provides landlocked developing countries with direct access to international markets;

13. *Invites* landlocked developing countries and transit countries to consider ratifying, as appropriate, relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;[12]

14. *Underlines* that infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries and that the development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated into the global market;

15. *Stresses* that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge and requires the forging of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, the allocation of more resources from national budgets, the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening of the role of the private sector, and recognizes that both public and private investment have key roles to play in infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled funding structures;

16. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, such as inland waterways, roads,

[12] Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).

rail networks, ports and pipelines, in order to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

17. *Underlines* the significance of international transport corridors for reducing trade costs and promoting regional sustainable development, recognizes that joint regional efforts to reduce transit time through corridor facilitation contribute to improving export competitiveness and attracting more business to landlocked developing countries, and invites the international community to provide, within existing resources, support in this regard;

18. *Acknowledges* that impediments to private investment in infrastructure exist on both the supply and the demand side and that insufficient investment is due in part to inadequate infrastructure plans and an insufficient number of well-prepared investable projects, along with private sector incentive structures that are not necessarily appropriate for investing in many long-term projects and risk perceptions of investors, encourages landlocked developing countries to embed resilient and quality infrastructure investment plans into their national sustainable development strategies, while also strengthening their domestic enabling environments, and calls upon the international community to provide technical support to landlocked developing countries to translate plans into concrete project pipelines, as well as support for individual implementable projects, including for feasibility studies, the negotiation of complex contracts and project management;

19. *Encourages* multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure, including by completing missing links connecting, inter alia, landlocked developing countries within regional networks;

20. *Invites* the multilateral financial and development institutions to consider how they can best support landlocked developing countries with infrastructure development, including through project financing, planning for operations and maintenance, technical and regulatory advice and project preparation;

21. *Stresses* the importance of universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services and the need for accelerating sustainable energy for all in landlocked developing countries, including through innovative partnerships;

22. *Underlines* that greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global as well as regional value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and diversification and ensuring their economic development, and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to provide assistance, within existing resources, to landlocked developing countries to strengthen their capacity to participate in regional and global value chains;

23. *Recognizes* that services sectors are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains, that efficient services sectors enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation and that landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies;

24. *Stresses* that improved trade facilitation, including through further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved

in border clearance, would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services;

25. *Recognizes* the importance of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation in addressing high trade and transit costs, and in this regard calls for its full and timely implementation by all members of the World Trade Organization, calls upon those members that have not yet done so to deposit their instrument of acceptance, where appropriate, as soon as possible, and in this regard urges members and relevant international and regional organizations to continue to provide and enhance technical and capacity-building assistance, particularly for the effective implementation of the provisions of articles on the release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation, which are of utmost relevance to landlocked developing countries;

26. *Also recognizes* that the growth in e-commerce provides international trade opportunities for landlocked developing countries, including new market opportunities, and encourages development partners to consider assisting landlocked developing countries in developing their information and communications technology infrastructure and ensuring that appropriate policies and legal and regulatory frameworks are in place to support the development of information and communications technology and close the digital divide;

27. *Stresses* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity, that this approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets, that this would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization and that documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices are important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience;

28. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets, and welcomes the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

29. *Underlines* that, in order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures, consistent with relevant international rules and obligations, that promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and inclusive and sustainable growth and development, stresses that each landlocked developing country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and in this regard stresses that the national development efforts of landlocked developing countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment;

30. *Emphasizes* that infrastructure, industry and innovation are strongly connected, share the common goal of achieving inclusive and sustainable economic development and contribute to poverty eradication, and recognizes that inclusive and sustainable industrialization that provides open and equal social and economic opportunities for all, including women and girls, is integral to the structural transformation of the economies of all countries, including the landlocked developing countries;

31. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community;

32. *Also recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to and remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to address these challenges in an integrated manner, as appropriate;

33. *Underlines* that South-South and triangular cooperation are vital to the landlocked developing countries, especially in the areas of productive capacity-building, infrastructure, energy, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation, and in this regard highlights the importance of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in addressing the needs of countries in special situations;

34. *Notes with appreciation* the inauguration of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries as the first-ever intergovernmental entity of the landlocked developing countries, invites the International Think Tank to continue to undertake its role of supporting the development efforts of the landlocked developing countries, urges those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, and invites relevant stakeholders to support the International Think Tank;

35. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underlined by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays an important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

36. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, on mutually agreed terms, and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

37. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, with providers of official development assistance reaffirming their respective commitments;

38. *Recognizes* the essential role of the private sector in the development of landlocked developing countries, and in this regard underlines the need to continue promoting the participation of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and the critical importance of mobilizing private resources, including through foreign direct investment, for the development of landlocked developing countries, taking into account the leading role of Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action;

39. *Invites* developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation, within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

40. *Invites* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative in assisting landlocked developing countries to address their special needs and requirements, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

41. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

42. *Underlines* the importance of increasing the availability and use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, stresses the need to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, for this purpose, and reaffirms the commitment to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data;

43. *Recognizes* that it is important for all countries, including landlocked developing countries, to commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full gender equality with men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed;

44. *Reaffirms* its resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for, inter alia, the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development;

45. *Also reaffirms* its resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, in which it agreed on reforms to improve the United Nations system's collective support to countries as they implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

46. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

47. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation of, follow-up to and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

48. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

49. *Reaffirms* its decision, in its resolution 72/232, to convene, as called for in paragraph 78 of the Vienna Programme of Action, a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014–2024, to be held no later than December 2019, that the Office of the High Representative shall coordinate the preparatory process, that all relevant United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and other relevant organizations, within their respective mandates and within existing resources, shall be invited to provide support to the review process, that the high-level midterm review shall be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, as appropriate and within existing resources, that the high-level midterm review shall adopt an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome in the form of a political declaration, that the midterm review and its preparation shall be conducted within existing resources and that all costs relating to the midterm review and its preparation shall be financed through voluntary contributions;

50. *Also reaffirms* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review shall review progress made by the landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and shall be a forum for sharing best practices and lessons learned and identifying obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues, in order to further accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

51. *Decides* to hold no more than two days of high-level plenary meetings of the General Assembly devoted to the midterm review in early December 2019, to be chaired by the President of General Assembly;

52. *Also decides* to invite the President of the General Assembly to chair the high-level midterm review, requests the President of the Assembly to convene informal consultations, as required, and in the most efficient and effective manner, to finalize its outstanding organizational arrangements, including the dates, and to facilitate the preparation of an outcome document for the midterm review, and in this regard welcomes the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of co-facilitators to lead the informal consultations;

53. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in close consultation with the relevant United Nations system organizations, to prepare a draft outline of the outcome document of the midterm review so as to facilitate the intergovernmental consultations, taking into account the outcomes of the regional meetings and the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

54. *Encourages* all Member States, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, as well as the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, to participate actively in the midterm review at the highest possible level, and reiterates the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the landlocked developing countries in the high-level midterm review process;

55. *Stresses* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process;

56. *Decides* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review and its preparatory process shall be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and observers in the General Assembly;

57. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the comprehensive high-level midterm review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and in this context calls upon the landlocked developing countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Representative;

58. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action, including the preparations for and organization of the high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

59. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a progress report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for its high-level midterm review, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries", unless otherwise agreed.

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.49

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Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (g)
Sustainable development: report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.36

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997,[1] the Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000[2] and the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010,[3]

Reaffirming also its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled "The future we want",[4] and noting the follow-up on paragraph 88, subparagraphs (*a*) to (*h*), of the outcome document, including through General Assembly resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.
[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/55/25), annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.
[3] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/65/25), annex I, decision SS.XI/9.
[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Recalling also the establishment of universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance and its responsiveness and accountability to Member States, the attendant change of its designation to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the evolution in the periodicity of its sessions,

Recalling further its resolutions 68/215 of 20 December 2013, 69/223 of 19 December 2014 and 71/231 of 21 December 2016,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[5] and its principles,

Taking into account Agenda 21[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[7]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[8] and the outcome document of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[9]

Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[10]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of

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[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[8] Resolution 60/1.

[9] Resolution 68/6.

[10] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1/Corr.1, annex.

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,

Looking forward to the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2019 to accelerate global action on climate change,

Taking note of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Committed also to enhancing the voice of the United Nations Environment Programme and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment,

Recognizing the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development, which met under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 9 to 18 July in New York and undertook an in-depth review of progress on a subset of 6 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget, as well as the need to realize efficiency gains,

Reaffirming the commitments, as contained in the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 June 2014,[13] inter alia, to ensure the full integration of the environmental dimension, especially throughout the sustainable development agenda, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development,

Reiterating the need to develop and expand partnerships, including between Governments, the private sector, academia, relevant United Nations entities and programmes, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and individuals,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017, welcomes also the report on the session and the resolutions and decisions contained therein,[14] and looks forward to the convening of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 11 to 15 March 2019;

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/69/25), annex, resolution 1/1.

[14] Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/73/25).

2. *Reiterates* the ministerial declaration entitled "Towards a pollution-free planet"[15] adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its third session, and reaffirms that addressing pollution is a crucial element for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of the United Nations Environment Assembly to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[16] in an integrated manner, as reflected in its resolutions 2/5 of 27 May 2016[17] and 3/3 of 6 December 2017[18] on contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

4. *Commends* the President and the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council for supporting and facilitating the effective integration of the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly into the preparation, work and proceedings of, and the participation of the President of the Environment Assembly in, the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Encourages* the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to continue to convey the main messages agreed upon by the Environment Assembly at its sessions during the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, taking into account the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as General Assembly resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016;

6. *Looks forward* to the contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the lead-up, inputs and meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2019;

7. *Reiterates* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard calls for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[10] adopted by the Programme;

8. *Also reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically based and policy-relevant global environmental assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels;

9. *Expresses concern* about the sustainability, predictability and stability of the funding of the United Nations Environment Programme governing body, and requests the Secretary-General to make proposals, as appropriate;

10. *Notes* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide options to secure the participation of developing countries in the Environment Assembly;[19]

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[15] UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1.

[16] Resolution 70/1.

[17] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/71/25), annex, resolution 2/5.

[18] Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/73/25), annex, resolution 3/3.

[19] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/69/25), annex, resolution 1/15.

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme", unless otherwise agreed.

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.50

General Assembly

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27 November 2018

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 18 (c)
Macroeconomic policy questions: external debt sustainability and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Hessa Alateibi (United Arab Emirates), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.11

External debt sustainability and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, 66/189 of 22 December 2011, 67/198 of 21 December 2012, 68/202 of 20 December 2013, 69/207 of 19 December 2014, 70/190 of 22 December 2015, 71/216 of 21 December 2016 and 72/204 of 20 December 2017,

Noting the work of the United Nations in this area,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

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Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[3]

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability, debt transparency and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and acknowledging that debt crises are costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting the poor and vulnerable in particular,

Reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies, including in the area of debt management, is central to the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts, including to achieve development goals and to maintain debt sustainability, should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Reiterating that debt sustainability depends on a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, and emphasizing that country-specific circumstances and the impact of external shocks, such as volatile commodity and energy prices, and of international capital flows, should continue to be taken into account in debt sustainability analyses,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy and the slow pace of the restoration of global growth and trade, including the impact on development, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase, with many downside risks, including net negative capital flows from some emerging and developing economies, continued low commodity prices, high unemployment, in particular among young people, and rising private and public indebtedness in many developing countries, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date to attend to these challenges and to make progress towards sustaining global demand,

Expressing deep concern that global growth has remained strongly dependent on unprecedented increases in global debt stocks in the years since the global financial crisis, and, in conjunction with the fast integration of developing countries into international financial markets, including for purposes of debt refinancing, exposes a growing number of developing economies to highly sensitive and amplified reactions to even mildly adverse economic developments, or the perception of such, in financial markets,

Underlining that, globally, the gross domestic product growth rate could increase significantly if every country achieved gender equality, and recognizing that the economic and social losses owing to a lack of progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are significant,

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[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[3] Resolution 63/303, annex.

Recognizing the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[4] reiterating that severe natural disasters and social or economic shocks can undermine a country's debt sustainability, and noting that public creditors have taken steps to ease debt repayment obligations through debt rescheduling and debt cancellation following an earthquake or a tsunami and in the context of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, and encouraging consideration of further debt relief steps, where appropriate, and/or other measures for countries affected in this regard, as feasible,

Expressing deep concern that a number of countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as some middle-income countries, face challenges in servicing their debt and that, in spite of international efforts, a growing number of developing countries continue to struggle with high debt burdens and are classified, in accordance with the debt sustainability assessments, as being in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress,

Taking note of the operational guidelines for sustainable financing promoted by the Group of 20, while urging the Group to continue to engage in an inclusive and transparent manner with other States Members of the United Nations in its work, in order to ensure that the initiatives of the Group complement or strengthen the United Nations system, and noting the progress achieved in the implementation of the operational guidelines,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and development;

3. *Recognizes* the importance, in particular, of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external debt sustainability arising from structural changes to overall debt composition, the rapid growth of private sector debt in many emerging and developing countries and the growing use of new debt financing instruments and approaches;

4. *Notes* the growing concerns about fast-rising corporate debt, high-risk exposure to volatile international financial markets and fast-growing debt servicing burdens as potential triggers of financial and debt crises and the consequent need for coordinated policy responses;

5. *Stresses* the dual responsibility of creditors and debtor countries to avoid a build-up of unsustainable debt so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, taking into account the challenges posed by the global economic environment and risks for debt sustainability in some developed and developing countries, and the need to continue to assist developing countries in this regard;

6. *Acknowledges* the role played by the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to guide borrowing and lending decisions, and welcomes the approval in 2017 of the comprehensive reform of the Framework, which aims to improve its assessment of a country's debt carrying capacity by incorporating

[4] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.
[5] A/73/180.

additional country specific information and methodological advances to increase the accuracy in the prediction of debt distress;

7. *Reiterates* that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgments about a country's debt sustainability, and, in view of the new challenges and vulnerabilities for developing countries' external debt sustainability, substantiated by the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and recent joint analyses of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, stresses the need for improved data collection and quality in areas that include domestic public debt and domestic and external private debt, as well as legal and regulatory features, such as ownership, currency denomination and jurisdiction according to national priorities;

8. *Also reiterates* that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, calls for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect and release data, where appropriate, welcomes the ongoing work of relevant institutions to apply innovative tools for monitoring financial stress in developing countries and to create a central data registry that includes information on debt restructuring, and calls for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system, including the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to conduct analytical activities and to provide policy advice and technical assistance to Governments, upon request, in the areas of managing debt, and operating and maintaining databases, and in this regard recalls that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should continue its analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, so that this extends not only to improvements in the timeliness and accuracy of debt data recording, but also to the enhanced coverage of public sector and other relevant debt data, including, in particular, heretofore unrecorded or hidden debt instruments, contingent liabilities and more complex debt instruments;

10. *Stresses* the need to strengthen information-sharing and transparency among all creditors and borrowers to make sure that debt sustainability assessments are based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data, including an assessment of national public and private debt, in order to ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals, encourages further improvement of the mutual exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, on borrowing and lending among all creditors and borrowers, and takes note of the Paris Forum initiative, which is aimed at gathering together sovereign creditors and debtors to share views and information, promoting greater debt transparency and preserving debt sustainability;

11. *Recognizes* that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, the export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems, and hence on the creation of an enabling environment at all levels that is conducive to development, and also recognizes the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability;

12. *Notes with concern* that some low- and middle-income developing countries that were not part of the existing debt relief initiatives now have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals, indicating a need to consider, as appropriate, stronger debt management initiatives for those countries, and stresses the importance of medium- and long-term debt sustainability to deal with bilateral and non-Paris Club debt;

13. *Underlines* the fact that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy the full benefits unless all creditors, both public and private, contribute to debt workouts, as appropriate, in order to ensure the debt sustainability of those countries, and invites creditors, both private and public, that are not yet fully participating in debt relief initiatives to substantially increase their participation, including by providing comparable treatment, to the extent possible, to debtor countries that have concluded sustainable debt relief agreements with creditors;

14. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, acknowledges that sound debt management initiatives can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and with the promotion of sustained economic growth and development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard urges countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards achieving those objectives, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to their national priorities and strategies;

15. *Notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help to mitigate the adverse impacts of a debt crisis and stabilize macroeconomic developments;

16. *Acknowledges* the efforts of, and invites creditors to provide additional flexibility to, developing countries affected by natural disasters so as to allow them to address their national debt concerns, while taking into account their specific economic and social situations and needs;

17. *Recognizes* that the detrimental impact of disasters on the debt sustainability of many least developed countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries warrants further attention and that preserving external debt sustainability requires ex ante financing to enable the systematic reduction of disaster risk and resilience-building, as well as the disclosure of disaster risk to avoid exacerbating debt distress, when feasible, and in this regard recognizes that many least developed countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries have limited access to financing to invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience before and after disasters;

18. *Also recognizes* the importance of the creation of robust, nationally appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for sustainable national and municipal borrowing, on the basis of sustainable debt management, supported by adequate revenues and capacities, by means of local creditworthiness, as well as expanded sustainable municipal debt markets, when appropriate, and in this regard underlines the importance of the establishment of appropriate financial intermediaries for urban financing, such as regional, national, subnational and local development funds or development banks, including pooled financing mechanisms, which can catalyse public and private, national and international financing;

19. *Underlines* the importance of multilateral efforts to tackle increasingly complex cross-border challenges that have serious effects on development and debt sustainability;

20. *Recognizes* the role of the United Nations and of the international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;

21. *Reiterates* that debtors and creditors must work together in a transparent manner to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations and that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, acknowledges that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard takes note of the principles on responsible sovereign lending and borrowing of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, recognizes the applicable requirements of the debt limits policy of the International Monetary Fund and/or the non-concessional borrowing policy of the World Bank and the safeguards of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in its statistical system to enhance the debt sustainability of recipient countries, and resolves to work towards a global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

22. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence and cost of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in Sustainable Development Goal projects, as well as debt indexation instruments;

23. *Notes* the holding of the ninth Debt Management Facility Stakeholders' Forum in Brussels on 28 and 29 May 2018, and encourages the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to continue their analytical and policy work and technical assistance on debt issues and to promote policies for responsible, sustainable and transparent sovereign borrowing and lending, as appropriate;

24. *Expresses its concern* regarding the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to disrupt the will of the large majority of bondholders who accept a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, given the potential broader implications in other countries, notes legislative steps taken by certain countries to prevent these activities and encourage all Governments to take action, as appropriate, and, furthermore, takes note of discussions in the United Nations on debt issues;

25. *Encourages* Governments to be mindful of the ability of non-cooperative minority bondholders to block a restructuring of a debt-crisis country's obligations, and encourages debtors and creditors to work together to draft bond agreements accordingly;

26. *Welcomes* the reforms to pari passu and collective action clauses proposed by the International Capital Market Association and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund to reduce the vulnerability of sovereigns to holdout creditors, encourages countries to take further action to include those clauses in all their bond issuances, and welcomes the continued work of the International Monetary Fund to

monitor the uptake of the clauses and explore options for resolving the issue with the outstanding stock of debt without such clauses;

27. *Recalls* that the United Nations, as a universal intergovernmental body, has provided a platform for both creditors and debtors to discuss ways to improve external debt sustainability, requests the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up to organize a substantive expert debate among the major institutional stakeholders on how to improve debt sustainability and debt restructuring, and in this regard invites continued ongoing cooperation among the international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund, relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and other relevant forums, in accordance with their respective mandates, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on this matter;

28. *Also recalls* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, notes its meeting held in Geneva in November 2018, at which the issue of debt sustainability was an item for deliberation, and recalls the request that the work of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts be presented as a regular input to the forum on financing for development follow-up;

29. *Reiterates* the invitation to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to give appropriate consideration to the central role of maintaining and facilitating the financial and macroeconomic stability of developing countries, including debt sustainability, and of supporting an appropriately enabling domestic and international economic, financial and regulatory environment for the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard invites all major institutional stakeholders, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

30. *Invites* donor countries, taking into account country-specific debt sustainability analyses, to continue their provision of concessional and grant-based financing to developing countries, which could contribute to debt sustainability in the medium to long term, and notes the provision by the International Monetary Fund of interest relief to eligible developing countries in the form of zero-interest loans;

31. *Invites* the international community to continue efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in developing countries to enhance sustainable upstream and downstream debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained;

32. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders, to continue and intensify cooperation in respect of activities relating to capacity-building and to early warning monitoring systems in developing countries in the area of debt management and debt sustainability, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

33. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments,

agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in his report an assessment of the potential impact of investment requirements to meet the Sustainable Development Goals on developing countries' external debt sustainability, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt sustainability and development", unless otherwise agreed.

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.51

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (f)
Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Austria:* amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.33/Rev.1

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

1. Delete the last preambular paragraph.

2. Replace operative paragraph 35 with the following text:

Calls upon all stakeholders to implement the present resolution as a means to deliver the comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in which the dignity of the human person is fundamental, the Goals and targets are met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, no one is left behind and we endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

* On behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

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United Nations A/C.2/73/L.52

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (h)
Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature

Austria:* amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1

Harmony with Nature

1. Delete the last preambular paragraph.

2. Replace operative paragraph 13 with the following text:

Calls upon all stakeholders to implement the present resolution as a means to deliver the comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in which the dignity of the human person is fundamental, the Goals and targets are met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, no one is left behind and we endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

* On behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

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United Nations A/C.2/73/L.53

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session

Second Committee

Agenda item 20 (b)

Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mehdi Remaoun (Algeria), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.14

Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway)[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.

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Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7]

Reaffirming further its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming also its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for the implementation of, inter alia, the Samoa Pathway and called upon the entities of the development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development,

Reaffirming further its resolution 72/279 of 1 June 2018, and welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda,

Recalling its resolutions 72/217 of 20 December 2017, 72/307 of 27 July 2018, and all relevant previous resolutions,[8]

Recalling also the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[9] and recognizing that disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change and which are increasing in frequency and intensity, significantly impede progress towards sustainable development in small island developing States,

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[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] See resolutions 70/202, 69/288, 69/217 and 69/15.

[9] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

Reaffirming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[10]

Welcoming the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: SIDS perspective", held in New York on 11 July 2018,

Reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters,

Acknowledging that climate change and sea level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement,[11] and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Highlighting the synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and noting with concern the scientific findings contained in the special report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Looking forward to the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in 2019, to accelerate global action on climate change,

Taking note of the important relationship between the ocean and climate change, which include the Ocean Pathway initiative, launched on the margins of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Reiterating the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

Reaffirming that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, and reaffirming also that healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and

[10] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States,

Recognizing the importance of water and sanitation for sustainable development, especially in atoll nations, to address the range of issues around sea level rise, salt water intrusion and changes in rainfall patterns, and in this regard acknowledging the launch by the General Assembly of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028,

Recognizing also that health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of, all three dimensions of sustainable development and that the Samoa Pathway calls for policies and programmes to ensure better health, and recognizing also the need for the prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and for quality essential health-care services while also reducing the health-related impacts resulting from natural and man-made disasters in small island developing States,

Reaffirming the importance of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework and the progress made, including through the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States and the third annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 July 2018, as well as the importance and progress of the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network, and the need for its continued coherence with the Partnership Framework,

Recognizing that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships,

Recognizing also that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

Noting the decline in correspondent banking relationships experienced by many small island developing States, and looking forward in this regard to the continuing consideration of this issue in forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, as appropriate and in accordance with existing mandates,

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[13]

[13] A/73/226.

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings", prepared pursuant to resolution 69/288 of 8 June 2015;[14]

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the small island developing States units of the Secretariat", submitted pursuant to resolution 72/217;[15]

4. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[5] and urges its speedy, full and effective implementation, as well as effective monitoring, follow-up and review;

5. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions on all means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

6. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

7. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the Samoa Pathway and set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[16] as well as the outcome documents of all related United Nations conferences and processes, and, recognizing the interlinkages between them, urges consideration of these interlinkages through their implementation;

8. *Also recalls* paragraph 6 of resolution 72/217, notes that the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall devote adequate time at its 2019 meeting and at its future meetings to continuing to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages the high-level political forum to devote sufficient attention to these discussions, bearing in mind that small island developing States are a special case for sustainable development, as well as to lessons learned from the follow-up and review processes of previous conferences on small island developing States and their outcome documents;

9. *Reiterates* the call, made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action",[17] for action to be taken, on an urgent basis, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and urges its implementation, while recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and therefore urges the fulfilment of these commitments;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts to implement the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, and encourages its continued implementation in all small island developing States regions to address challenges related to food security and nutrition, including through, inter alia, the

[14] See A/72/119 and A/72/119/Add.1.

[15] A/73/345.

[16] Resolution 70/1.

[17] Resolution 71/312, annex.

Interregional Initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

11. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels to that effect, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;

12. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure its effective follow-up and implementation;

13. *Urges* entities of the United Nations system to mainstream, within the realm of their mandates, the Samoa Pathway into their respective strategic plans and frameworks, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to make available sufficient and predictable resources for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, and encourages international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

15. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the Secretariat, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support for the work of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States, to ensure an annual action-oriented, results-focused global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support the efforts of small island developing States to strengthen their cooperation on building resilience and on enhancing action with regard to adaptation to climate change;

17. *Recognizes* progress made in collecting disaster-related data and that the data and analysis from the Sendai Framework monitor, as well as the outcomes of the 2019 session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, are contributions to the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, and further recognizes that the development of national climate change adaptation strategies and national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 is an opportunity to maximize synergies and the shared use of data sets and risk assessments;

18. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

19. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

20. *Recognizes* that gender inequality remains a challenge for small island developing States, and recognizes further the need to continue efforts to further

promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

21. *Underscores* the important role of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in supporting small island developing States, in accordance with their respective mandates, including those under the Samoa Pathway and other intergovernmentally agreed documents and resolutions, recognizes their improved coordination and collaboration, and urges the continued leveraging of their complementary strengths in carrying out their annual workplans and related activities;

22. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative to support the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States and to enhance coherence and effective coordination between United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders and improve communication and consultation with Member States;

23. *Recommends* that the United Nations system continue to work towards ensuring that the activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States, within the mandate of each entity, are aligned with the priorities of those States and take into consideration any existing and national and regional enabling mechanisms facilitating policy coherence and consolidating resource mobilization;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, and urges the United Nations system to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden on small island developing States and support the strengthening of the effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes;

25. *Recognizes* that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard urges the international community and United Nations system, in particular the United Nations development system, to continue their support to small island developing States in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, in line with provisions of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate to national contexts, with a view to supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

26. *Urges* United Nations system entities to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all development partners so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of small island developing States at the country level;

27. *Requests* United Nations system entities, including the international financial institutions, to actively contribute, within their respective mandates, to addressing the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including through a more holistic approach so as to enable better access to financing for small island developing States;

28. *Reiterates* the request to the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/243 and in line with paragraph 4 of resolution 72/279, to

conduct a review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of multi-country offices, in full consultation with the countries involved, to improve the contribution of the offices to country progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda, to be presented to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities for development segment of its 2019 session;

29. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene a one-day high-level review at United Nations Headquarters in September 2019, to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, which will result in a concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed political declaration, and in this regard recalls its decision 72/559, in which it decided to transmit the draft decision to hold the high-level review on 27 September 2019 to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session for action, requests the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the meeting, and encourages Governments and the United Nations system to attend the high-level review at the highest possible level;

30. *Welcomes* the convening of the regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in Belize, Mauritius and Tonga, as well as the interregional meeting for all small island developing States, held in Samoa, in order to undertake a review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway at the national and regional levels, and takes note of their outcomes;

31. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the small island developing States in the high-level review process, and in this regard invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders and donors to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States in participating fully and effectively in the high-level review processes;

32. *Welcomes* the establishment of the network of small island developing States national focal points, which is aimed at providing a vital link between the global, regional, and national levels to facilitate coordination, information sharing and planning on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals, further welcomes the convening of the inaugural meeting of the small island developing States national focal points on 29 October 2018, in Apia, on the sidelines of the interregional preparatory meeting for the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages all small island developing States to participate in the network in order to further the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

33. *Notes* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Office of the High Representative have significantly expanded;

34. *Notes with concern* the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment resulting from the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General, by 2020, within existing resources, to ensure the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States, and looks forward to the update by the Secretary-General on the repositioning of the United Nations development system and the alignment of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the 2030 Agenda;

36. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under the agenda item on follow-up to and

implementation of the Samoa Pathway, information on what has been done to address the needs resulting from the expanded mandates given to the small island developing States units in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative;

37. *Reiterates its request* in resolution 72/307 that the Secretary-General submit a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, making it available, on an exceptional basis, in early 2019, following the regional and interregional preparatory meetings for the high-level review, so that it can serve to support the intergovernmental consultations and be considered by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", unless otherwise agreed.

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.54

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 25 (b)
Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Draft decision submitted by the Rapporteur

Draft provisional rules of procedure and provisional agenda of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[1] and decides to recommend the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference and the provisional agenda of the Conference contained in annexes I and II to the note, respectively, for adoption by the Conference.

[1] A/73/376.

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Please recycle

United Nations A/C.2/73/L.55

General Assembly

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Seventy-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 17
Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Austria:* amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.29/Rev.1

Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

1. Delete the last preambular paragraph.

2. Replace operative paragraph 37 with the following text:

Calls upon all stakeholders to implement the present resolution as a means to deliver the comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in which the dignity of the human person is fundamental, the Goals and targets are met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, no one is left behind and we endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

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Seventy-third session

Second Committee

Agenda item 18 (a)

Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Austria:* amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.21/Rev.1

International trade and development

1. Delete the last preambular paragraph.

2. Replace operative paragraph 21 with the following text:

Calls upon all stakeholders to implement the present resolution as a means to deliver the comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in which the dignity of the human person is fundamental, the Goals and targets are met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, no one is left behind and we endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

18-20555 (E) 291118

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